Christ's Concealed Glory

("Out of Sync with the World")
John 7:1-24
11-3-2024

Introduction: v.1-5

**** Why did Jesus Conceal His Glory?***

I. Christ's <u>TIMING</u> to receive Glory from the World had not yet come (v.6)
(His <u>Glory</u> was not what the world wanted to <u>See</u>)

II. Christ's <u>TESTIMONY</u> against the World's Sin brought Him Opposition (v.7-13)
(His <u>Message</u> was not what the World wanted to <u>Hear</u>)

III. Christ's <u>DOCTRINE</u> was not Self-Serving, but exalted the Father (v.14-18)
(His <u>Example</u> was not what the World wanted to <u>Follow</u>)

IV. Christ's <u>WORK</u> was Biblical, but out of Sync with the Religious World (v.19-24)
(His <u>Methods</u> were not what the World wanted to <u>Accept</u>)

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v. 1
"In Galilee" – Northern Israel; in the land of the Gentiles.

Jesus chose (for a time) to remain away from Jewry (Judea) since the Jews of Judea sought to take His life (and His time to die had not yet come).

v. 2
"Feast of tabernacles" – a seven-day festival, celebrating God's dwelling with the Israelites, who "tabernacled" in the wilderness for 40 years after being delivered from Egypt (Lev. 23:43).

Every year the Jews would make tents (booths) from the boughs of trees and would dwell in them during this seven-day post-harvest festival. (Many still practice this today)

This last of the three pilgrimage feasts had a prophetic significance (SEE: Lev. 23):

1) Passover – Christ's death
2) Unleavened Bread – Christ's burial (He saw no corruption)
3) Firstfruits – Christ's resurrection
4) Pentecost – Christ's Church (Jew & Gentile in one body)
5) Trumpets – Christ's return for the Rapture and His outpouring of wrath
6) Day of Atonement – Israel's repentance and faith in Christ
7) Tabernacles – Christ's tabernacling among His people in His future Kingdom

(Tabernacles will be celebrated in the future Kingdom – Zech. 14:16-19)

v. 3
"His brethren" – His half-brothers; the other children of Mary & Joseph (Mt. 12:46, 13:55). Included would be James, Joses, Simon, and Judas (Jude).

"Go into Judea" – for the pilgrimage Feast of Tabernacles

"Thy disciples" – His Judean followers

v. 4
Anyone who had even a small portion of miracle-working power would display it publicly for self-recognition and self-glory. "No man would keep it a secret," they say to Jesus.

"He himself seeketh to be <u>known openly</u>" – Fame, recognition, and honor are typically sought by all public figures. How could Jesus advance Himself, they thought, unless He goes public—and public on "Main Street" Jerusalem (the Jewish capital of the world.

John, who in his Gospel has as his purpose to display Jesus' **Deity** and Messiahship, here demonstrates Christ's rejection by the world.

He shows Jesus to be uniquely different from the religious world of His day. He shows why Christ concealed ("hid") His glory at certain times and from certain people.

His half-brothers urge Him to go public, let everyone see what You can do, display Your miraculous powers to all the world.

"<u>If</u> thou do these things" – the "if" demonstrates doubt in their hearts (cp. V. 5).

"Shew thyself to the world" – Manifest who You are and what You can do to all the world, and if the world becomes convinced that you are the Son of God, we will become convinced also. Such was their real motive, as verse 5 indicates.

v. 5
His own physical brethren did not believe on Him until after His resurrection.

If Jesus was the Messiah and Savior, why didn't the whole world recognize it?

One reason: they would not and could not, unless the Father had brought them to His Son (Jn. 6:37, 44, 65).

Another reason: Jesus was totally different than what the world wanted in a Messiah. He was "out of step" with the world; He didn't march to their beat; He didn't mesh with their plans. He was <u>not</u> "In Sync" with their worldly ideas and ideals.

Therefore, most of the world never saw Him for who He was. His glory was hid from them.

Note the humility of Christ as evident by the following changes He underwent in becoming man:

a. A change in His <u>dwelling-place</u>
(from the presence of the Father to the presence of men - Jn. 6:51)

b. A change in His <u>possessions</u>
(from riches to poverty - Luke 8:59; II Cor. 8:9)

c. A change in His <u>reputation</u> among men
(from glory to obscurity - Jn. 17:5; Phil. 2:6, 7)

d. A change in His <u>position</u>
(from equality with God [in authority] to servanthood - Mt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:6, 7)

e. A change in His <u>form</u> (bodily appearance)
(from the form of God to the likeness of men - Phil. 2:6-8)

Note concerning these changes:

a. All the changes were temporary

1) Jesus returned to His dwelling-place with the Father (Jn. 17:11).
2) Jesus reclaimed His riches with the Father (Jn. 16:10; Rev.5:12)
3) Jesus has been exalted to a place of glory among spiritually-minded men (Jn. 17:5), and will soon be honored by all men (Phil. 2:9, 10; Rev. 5:12)
4) Jesus is again occupying the place of rulership (authority) over all creation (Col. 1:15 - "the first born of all creation"; Mt. 28:19)
5) Jesus will appear in a glorified human form throughout eternity (Acts 7:54, 55; Rev. 1:17, 18; 5:6; 22:16)

b. None of the changes affected Christ's divine nature
(though Jesus became man, He did not cease to be God, very God!)

**** Why did Jesus Conceal His Glory?***

I. Christ's TIMING to receive Glory from the World had not yet come (v.6)
(His Glory was not what the world wanted to See)

"My time is not yet come" – The time to be openly know and glorified by the world had not yet arrived for Jesus. At His first coming, He would be "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." He would not be noticed for who He was by mots of the world.

Even today, most of the world does not recognize Him for who He is. Some think he was a mere prophet; others, an ancient religious radical; to others, He is a mere man no different than you or me).

The Jewish world expected the Messiah to be a heroic political deliverer who would release Rome's grip on Israel's neck and would usher in the promised utopian Kingdom.

Although the time had not yet come for Christ to receive glory and honor and universal recognition and fame and global worship and adoration, one day it will (SEE: Phil. 2:5-11).

One day "every eye shall see Him" and they shall "look upon Me whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10).

One day the King of kings and Lord of lords will be manifest to the world (Rev. 19:11-16).

One day all of creation will pay homage to Him –

Rev. 5:11-13
And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; [12] Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. [13] And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

"Your time is always ready" – For the unbelieving world, their time to seek glory is always at hand. In the lost world's mind, "It's now or never." Only the believer had the "wait" mentality. We get such patience from our Savior.

II. Christ's TESTIMONY against the World's Sin brought Him Opposition (v.7-13)

(His Message was not what the World wanted to Hear)

v. 7

The world cannot hate those who are in the same condition and in the same frame of mind as they are. The world loves those who dance to their music. The world loves those who think and act as they do.

But those who dare to rebuke the world for its evil get mocked at and laughed at. Ridiculed and persecuted (EX: the Simpsons, the late-night TV shows mock righteousness and righteous people) (ILLUS: John Ashcroft's recent nomination to the office of Attorney General).

The world hates Jesus Christ because the world loves sin (and Jesus is the opposite of sin).

Jesus clearly pointed out the sin of the religious crowd (Matt. 23) and the materialistic crowd (Mt. 19:24) and the immoral crowd.

He shows lust to be the equivalent of adultery (Mt. 5:28), anger to be equal to murder (Mt. 5:22) and divorce and remarriage to be adultery (Mt. 5:31-32, 19:9).

He didn't come to condemn the world, but did clearly point out that the world was already under God's condemnation. He warned of hell and Gehenna fire. He preached hell-fire and damnation sermons.

Matthew 7:23
And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 8:12
But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:41-42
The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; [42] And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:41
Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Christian, since your light will be a rebuke to the world's darkness, don't be surprised if the world hates you, too. John 15:18-19

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. [19] If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

"Jesus had already turned down the crowd's offer to make Him King (Jn. 6:15), and He was not about to yield to them in any way. Celebrities might ride to success on the applause of the crowd, but God's servants know better. By doing miracles during the feast, at the "official city,' Jesus could muster a crowd, reveal Himself as Messiah, and overcome the enemy. The suggestion, of course, came from hearts and minds blinded by unbelief. This unbelief had been prophesied in Psalm 69:8 – "I am become a stranger unto My brethren, and an alien unto My mother's children" (since Jesus was not Joseph's natural son, He could not say, 'my father's children')." (Wiersbe, p. 315)

"History reveals that the 'religious system' often persecutes the very prophets of God who are sent to save it" (Wiersbe, p. 315).

v. 8
Jesus would wait a few more days in Galilee until the Father would lead him up to Jerusalem.

v. 12
"A good man. . . He deceiveth the people" - Divided opinions still exist over Jesus. No one is neutral toward Him. You are either for or against Him.

By the way, Jesus is either a "good man" (the only good one to ever live), or He is a deceiver. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.

v. 13
Out of fear of being put out of the synagogue (Jn. 9:22) or fear of persecution, many remained <u>silent</u> about Him 9Jn. 19:38, 20:19).

It was not until after His resurrection that people became bold enough to speak of Him to the Jews.

Fear muzzles the mouths of many professing believers today. When was the last time you witnessed to your boss? When was the last time you gave Gospel tracts out in a Hasidic community? When was the last time you witnessed to your neighbor?

III. Christ's DOCTRINE was not Self-Serving, but exalted the Father (v.14-18)

(His Example was not what the World wanted to Follow)

v. 14

Half-way through the week of Tabernacles, Jesus did go to the ultimate place of preaching: the Temple Mount at Jerusalem.

v. 15

"He never studied under any great rabbi; how did he get such theological brilliance?" they wondered.

v. 16

Christ's teaching content and ability came from Heaven, from God the Father. He is the ultimate Divinity School!

v. 17

Why do people reject Christ and His message today? Reason: Because they have rejected God (the true God) and His will. They insist on their will, their ways, and are not surrendered completely to God's will and ways.

Christ's doctrines were not private opinions, but divine decrees.

"Jesus explained that His doctrine came from the Father. He had already made it clear that He and the Father were one in the works that He performed (Jn. 5:17) and in the judgment that He executed (Jn. 5:30). Now He claimed that His teachings also came from the Father, and He would make that astounding claim again (Jn. 8:26, 38)." (Wiersbe, p. 316).

In order for God to teach you anything, you must be willing to do His will. Those who come to full surrender to God will discern the true Word of God. Various levels of understanding are due to various levels of obedience to God.

Those who obey Him most, know Him best!

For the people Jesus addressed, those who were really surrendered to God would come to know who Christ really was.

v. 18

So many boast: "I can do this" "I can do that" because they in pride seek self-glory from the world.

Jesus didn't need to promote Himself, toot His own horn, and manipulate a crowd in order to receive glory. He promoted only the Father's glory, and thereby vindicated Himself as the true righteous Son of God.

Only those who seek God's glory are righteous. Those who seek their own glory are proud and wicked.

IV. Christ's WORK was Biblical, but out of Sync with the Religious World (v.19-24)

(His Methods were not what the World wanted to Accept)

v. 19

Moses gave a law which forbade the unrighteous persecution of an innocent man.

Their pursuit to kill Jesus was totally unjustified and opposed to the Mosaic Law.

v. 20

"**You are demon-possessed" –** they say. Those who are afflicted by demons do have a paranoia that people are out to kill them.

However, these Jews are extreme liars. After Jesus healed the paralytic on the Sabbath, they began a quest to kill Jesus (SEE: John 5:18); and others knew of their intentions (John 7:25).

v. 22-23

If the work of circumcision could be cone on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses could be upheld, why could not the "work" of healing a paralytic also be cone on the Sabbath? After all, which of the two is more unselfish and benevolent?

v. 24

Jesus never said that we should not judge (in the sense of making discretionary, spiritual decisions about men or matters), but that we were not to judge based on "appearance"

--First appearance judgments are not always accurate (time will tell)

--Outward appearance judgments are not always accurate (the internals are the real values of people).

v. 24

"They (wrongly) evaluated things on the basis of superficial examination of the facts. They judged on the basis of "seems" and not "is." Unfortunately, too many people make that same mistake today (Wiersbe, p. 316).

The Jews are challenged to think through the situation rather than jumping to quick legalistic decisions about Christ and His work. But this is the way the world generally operates.

CONCLUSION:

Since Jesus was out of sync with the world, we should not expect that the world will accept the Bible's version of Jesus. They have conjured up all kinds of Jesus's. From the carnal Jesus Christ Superstar to the blasphemous film "The Last Temptation of Jesus." The Muslims have their opinion of Jesus; the Hasidic Jews have theirs; the Hindus, Buddhists, and Jehovah's witnesses have theirs.

But who is Jesus? You can know, if you will submit completely to God and His will (as revealed in His Word, the Bible).

If Jesus was out of sync with the world, we also should be willing to be different, separate, unique a peculiar people. God's people are to be holy (set apart). You ought to be totally out of step with the world ways of thinking and living. We march to a different drummer.

We will go against the world's flow, we will swim against the world's tide, we will cut across the world's grain. And we should not be ashamed to stand alone and be different.